

4 June

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Dominican Republic: The press conference on 3 June by President Balaguer and General "Ramfis" Trujillo, in which they emphasized the regime's "democratic" goals, indicate no change from the propaganda line promulgated by the late dictator, who often went to considerable lengths to try to convince world opinion that his regime was moderating its policies. While President Balaguer may possibly wish he could play a part in democratizing the regime, there is no indication that he has the courage and leadership to play any role other than his accustomed one as a puppet for those exercising real power.

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"Ramfis," other members of the Trujillo family, and their close associates are dominant in the regime and clearly understand that they will lose everything the moment they permit a free opposition. (SECRET)

LAOS: Souvanna Phouma has stated that he intends to be in Geneva on 7 or 8 June, according to Western newsmen who interviewed him at the Plaine des Jarres airfield on 2 June. Souvanna, prior to his departure with Souphannouvong by IL-14 for Hanoi, repeated that he wants neutralism, not Communism, for Laos and that he had so informed Communist leaders in Moscow, Peiping, and Hanoi. It does not appear that Souphannouvong and Souvanna will arrive in Geneva together.

Kong Le is reported to have told the visiting correspondents that he had done much recruiting and now has five battalions of parachutists. The newsmen felt that the Plaine des Jarres area had been thoroughly sanitized, only a few military personnel were in sight, and almost all of these were Kong Le troops.

Meanwhile, plans for a meeting of Souvanna, Souphannouvong, and Boun Oum in Nice, with Phoumi participating, apparently are proceeding. Phoumi, who has heard unofficially that the meeting of the three princes under Sihanouk's auspices has been agreed to, plans to leave for Nice on 5 or 6 June if the meeting is confirmed.

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The Pa Dong area was generally quiet on 3 and 4 June. Intercepted messages, however, reveal planning for air resupply of enemy troops engaged against government Meo forces there and for the launching of new attacks.

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No bloc airlift operations were scheduled for 4 June.